

Claims

1. A method for producing protoplasts of cassava or a closely related species, which protoplasts are capable of regeneration into plants, comprising producing friable embryogenic callus from explants of cassava or a closely related species and isolating protoplasts from said friable embryogenic callus.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the friable embryogenic callus is subjected to culture in a liquid medium.
3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein a mixture of cell wall degrading enzymes, such as a cellulase, a pectolyase and/or a macerozyme are used to produce protoplasts.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the plants from which explants are taken are pretreated with an auxin.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the friable embryogenic callus is produced from torpedo shaped primary or mature embryos.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the embryos are induced on primary explants.
7. A protoplast obtainable by the method of anyone of the foregoing claims.
8. A method for transforming a protoplast of a cassava or a closely related species by providing said protoplast with additional genetic information through infection by a bacterium comprising said additional genetic information such as *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, by electroporation or chemical poration providing a vector comprising said additional genetic information or by particle bombardment wherein the particles are coated with the additional genetic information, wherein a protoplast according to claim 7 is transformed.
9. A transformed protoplast obtainable by the method of claim 8.

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